



City of Diamond Bar

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August 29, 2002

Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey,
Knox and Swanson
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Ste. 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: September 5, 2002 Commission Meeting
Agenda Item #15

Dear Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson:

It has come to my attention that all State agencies have been asked to submit a plan to cut expenditures by 20% in Fiscal Year 2003-04. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your September 5th meeting to participate in this dialogue; therefore I am submitting this letter and ask that you take it into consideration during your deliberations and decision-making process.

Wen P. Chang
Mayor

I am currently the City Clerk in Diamond Bar and have held this position for 13 years. Prior to this, I served as Chief Deputy City Clerk in Long Beach for approximately four years and as Deputy City Clerk in Stanton for four years. As you are fully aware, City Clerks serve as filing officer for campaign statements as well as Statements of Economic Interest for designated employees. In reviewing the memo from Chairman Getman and Executive Director Krausse dated August 26, 2002 to the Commission, I would like to point out that cuts to some of these programs will certainly impact City Clerks in our role as filing officers. Rather than trying to address each program and area under consideration, I would like to focus on just a few areas where cuts would greatly impact me in my capacity as filing officer.

borah H. O'Connor
Mayor Pro Tem

Carol Herrera
Council Member

Robert S. Huff
Council Member

Robert P. Zirbes
Council Member

Hotline

During my 21-year tenure in the City Clerks profession, I have had numerous occasions to use this service. I used this service when budgets were tight and it was virtually impossible to get answers to questions in a timely manner. As you know, the regulations are very

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complicated and can be intimidating to anyone who is not familiar with them. With your toll-free number and technical assistance advice line, I do not hesitate to refer any of my filers (candidates or designated employees) to your hotline number for advice. I have heard nothing but positive comments from my filers when they call your toll-free number and they are able to get immediate answers to their questions. My own experience with the hotline has been nothing but positive and has certainly made my duties much easier. I have confidence that when I call I will be able to actually talk to someone immediately and the advice they provide will be accurate. The quality of the advice, as well as being able to receive it in a timely fashion is very crucial.

Filing Officer Training Programs and On-Site Seminars

The seminar and the information provided through these programs are invaluable to everyone who attends. Based on my positive experiences with these programs, I now strongly encourage my candidates and treasurers to attend these seminars. Again, I have heard nothing but positive comments about the quality, as well as the helpfulness, of the seminars.

While I fully understand that you have been tasked with the responsibility of making these cuts and don't envy you that task, I hope that you will take my comments into consideration and look for areas where cuts can be made that will not impact the services that you currently provide to City Clerks, as well as our filers. The services now provided by the FPPC are exemplary and you and your staff are to be commended for the improvements that have been made over the last few years. In order to preserve the integrity of the Political Reform Act, it is imperative that these services remain intact as they are functioning today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Burgess".

Lynda Burgess, MMC
City Clerk